



## **Juneau Avenue Bridge Reconstruction Project Information Update January 4, 2011**

Plans are being finalized for the reconstruction of the Juneau Avenue Bridge. The purpose of this document is to provide information about those plans to residents and businesses most closely affected by the bridge construction.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: When will the bridge be closed and for how long?**

**A:** The bridge will be closed on or after August 1, 2011 and is scheduled to be opened on or before November 16, 2012.

**Q: Why does this work have to be done now?**

**A:** The bridge, built in 1953, needs to be replaced and sufficient City funds have not been available. The City was successful in obtaining federal funds in the amount of \$23.8 million (of an estimated total construction cost of \$30.5 million) toward rehabilitation of the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge and reconstruction of the Juneau Avenue Bridge. Most of the federal dollars are stimulus funds and have construction timing requirements.

**Q: How will you guarantee that the bridge will not be closed longer than that?**

**A:** The City of Milwaukee has established an incentive for the contractor to have the bridge open earlier than November 16 (\$5,000 a day up to \$300,000) and a disincentive for not having the bridge open by November 16 (\$5,000 a day in penalties for every day after November 16) plus liquidated damages in the amount of \$3,500 per day if the contract completion date of November 16 is missed. In addition, the contractor will be selected in spring of 2011, allowing several months to produce shop drawings, order materials, etc. There is no guarantee, but every attempt is being made to open the bridge within sixteen months or less.

**Q: Why is the work not starting until August?**

**A:** We have received permission to delay actual closure of the bridge until August 1 because of the many seasonal activities which would be adversely impacted over the summer in the immediate area including impacts to adjacent residents, businesses, vehicular traffic and river usage. Some work/mobilization may start in the area before August 1.

**Q: What does "reconstruction" of the bridge entail?**

**A:** "Reconstruction" means removing the current bridge and constructing a new bridge. We have received approval to leave the existing 10 foot thick pier foundation and pilings; that will reduce the amount of time and noisy work that will be required during demolition. Everything else will be removed and replaced with the exception of the abutment retaining walls which will remain and be stained.

**Q. Is this a City project?**

**A.** The contract will be let by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The State will be responsible for project management and on-site inspection. The City will have technical and project oversight as the owner of the bridge, but is not part of the contract. The City will work closely with the State, particularly on the special provisions.

**Q: What hours will the contractor work?**

**A:** The City noise ordinance limits noisy construction work to 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Any exception to this would require aldermanic approval and notice to stakeholders. Similarly, weekend work is not permitted without permission and stakeholder notification. Generally contractors work between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. At the request of stakeholders the contract will also prohibit pile driving and use of jack hammers between 12 noon and 1 p.m., Monday - Friday, during the summer months. With the incentives in mind, a contractor might be encouraged to work longer hours to assure an early completion and bridge opening.

**Q: What are the plans for traffic detours?**

**A:** The contractor will install signs notifying vehicles that the bridge is closed and pointing to an alternative route. The signs at Water and King Drive will direct traffic toward McKinley. Signs will also be placed on Water Street and King Drive indicating that all businesses on Juneau are open for business. Construction traffic will not be permitted on Edison Street south of Juneau.

**Q: What are the plans for pedestrian circulation?**

**A:** Pedestrians wishing to cross the river will be directed to Highland pedestrian bridge on the south and the McKinley bridge on the north. The sidewalk will remain open to The Harp deck ramp from Edison Street except during sidewalk and bridge railing replacement and staining of the retaining wall. The sidewalk on the north side of Juneau west of Edison will be closed during construction. Riverwalk access to sidewalks on Juneau along the west side of the river will be closed. Signs to this effect will be posted along the Riverwalk.

**Q. Will the river be open to navigation during construction?**

**A.** Yes, a navigation channel will remain open.

**Q: How will stakeholders be kept informed of progress on the bridge construction? And who do we contact with questions or concerns?**

**A:** The City has assigned a public information liaison to keep stakeholders informed of bridge construction activities. Stakeholders will be invited to attend meetings and receive newsletters and email updates. (Two stakeholder information meetings have been held already, on June 28 and December 16, 2010.) The public information liaison is Jenann Olsen. She can be reached via email ([Jenann.Olsen@att.net](mailto:Jenann.Olsen@att.net)) or phone (414-271-6908).

Jenann will be your primary contact because we want you to be able to make one call and get your question answered or your concern addressed. When the construction begins, there will be an on-site inspector. You will also be given that person's contact information so if there is an immediate problem it can be addressed immediately.